

What is Claimed is:

1. A composition for modulating somatolactogenic function comprising:

(a) a mutant of cyclophilin B or an inhibitor of the interaction of cyclophilin B with a somatolactogenic hormone; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the mutant of cyclophilin B is CypB-NT.

3. A method for modulating somatolactogenic function in an animal comprising administering to the animal a composition comprising:

(a) cyclophilin B, a mutant of cyclophilin B or an inhibitor of the interaction of cyclophilin B with a somatolactogenic hormone; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein somatolactogenic function in the animal is augmented by administering a composition comprising cyclophilin B and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein somatolactogenic function in the animal is inhibited by administering a composition comprising a cyclophilin B mutant or an inhibitor of the interaction of cyclophilin B with a somatolactogenic hormone and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the cyclophilin B mutant is CypB-NT.

7. A method of identifying test compounds as inhibitors of somatolactogenic functions comprising assessing the ability of a test compound to inhibit interaction of cyclophilin B with a somatolactogenic hormone.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the somatolactogenic hormone is prolactin.

9. A method for diagnosing diseases associated with abnormal somatolactogenic functions comprising:

- (a) obtaining a biological sample from a patient:
- (b) determining levels of cyclophilin B in the

biological sample; and

(c) comparing the determined cyclophilin B levels in the patient with cyclophilin B levels in a biological sample of normal individuals wherein levels of cyclophilin B in the patient which are lower than levels in normal individuals are indicative of diseases or conditions wherein somatolactogenic function must be augmented while levels of cyclophilin B in the patient which are higher than levels of cyclophilin B in normal individuals are indicative of diseases or conditions wherein somatolactogenic function must be inhibited.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein levels of cyclophilin B are determined via an immunoassay using an anti-cyclophilin B antibody.